

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 5, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Page 3 of the Office Action objects to the dependent claims 5-12, but advises that they would be allowable if they are rewritten in independent form. The present Amendment does this, and also makes substantial revisions in the claims where appropriate to improve their form under US claim-drafting practice. It is respectfully submitted that 5-12 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

The present Amendment also cancels claims 1-3. In addition, it revises claim 4 to include the subject matter previously recited in claim 1, and to also recite that the upper face of the cylinder block is substantially flat over the two adjacent banks of cylinders.

The Office Action rejects claim 4 for obviousness on the basis Froumajou in view of Wrentmore. For the reasons discussed below, however, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by the current formulation of claim 4 is patentable over these references.

Claim 4 provides that pistons have crown faces that are parallel with an upper face of a cylinder block, which is not taught by Froumajou. Claim 4 also recites that the upper face is substantially flat over the two adjacent banks over the cylinders. This is not true of Wrentmore. It is therefore respectfully submitted that Wrentmore would not have provided a motivation for an ordinarily skilled person to modify Froumajou's engine so as to achieve the invention that is now recited in claim 4.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Application is therefore respectfully requested.

It is noted that the application has been amended to include nine independent claims. An additional claim fee \$1,200 is therefore being included in a remittance that is being submitted concurrently.

Respectfully submitted,



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